

11561
18 December 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Tweedy

SUBJECT : NSCIC Working Group Evaluation of NIEs

1. Attached for your consideration is a proposed memorandum for members of the NSCIC Working Group, subject as above, with two tabs, one describing previous surveys of user reaction to NIEs and a second which is a proposed questionnaire to be filled out as each NIE is evaluated by the Working Group members who represent NSCIC members (other than you).

2. This is a much narrower proposition than was proposed last June since the original recommendation was that the project include user participation in the drafting of the projected NIE schedules and in the development of terms of reference. Ed Proctor concurred in the original proposal, but John Huizenga -- who took two months to respond -- nonconcurred.

3. Mr. Huizenga's comments on this aspect of the proposal were as follows:

"9. I have no objection in principle to the use of a consumer evaluation questionnaire for estimates. I do not think that the Chairman of the NSCIC Working Group, rather than O/NE itself, should be the sponsor. And I think the procedure proposed would shortly become routinized, that responses would be irregular and left to clerks. It is only realistic to recognize that there would be little chance of getting 'valuable inputs' from 'top level officials' by this method.

10. A far more useful procedure, it seems to me, would be to arrange face to face contacts, usually between high level consumers and two O/NE Board and Staff people responsible for a particular estimate or area of estimating, to solicit comments and suggestions directly. This could be done by selective issuances or topics of major importance from time to time and would probably provide considerable two-way benefits."

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4. The proposal in the attached memorandum relates to the foregoing Huizenga comments as follows:

a. The questionnaire method is to be part of the project, with responsibility for the evaluation being assumed by each non-intelligence member of the NSCIC Working Group for his organization.

b. You will be the sponsor -- as Working Group Chairman -- and not Mr. Huizenga.

c. In an effort to keep the project from becoming routine, provision is made for discussion of each evaluation at a Working Group meeting. Prior to such meeting, your Staff would have prepared summaries of the comments for dissemination to all members.

d. To achieve the face-to-face contact that Mr. Huizenga favors, provision is made in the project proposal to have him bring two O/NE Board and Staff representatives responsible for the particular NIE to the Working Group meeting when the estimate is to be discussed.

5. While Ed Proctor favored the original proposal, he expressed several reservations:

a. He was "not very optimistic . . . about getting high level policy makers to focus on the problem or to participate directly in responding to the questionnaire." (In our proposal, responsibility for the evaluation is assigned to the representative of each NSCIC member, and since the responses are to be discussed at a Working Group meeting the interest of each member will be a determining factor in the amount of high level response he solicits.)

b. He suggested "selective tests of the questionnaire on two or three different types of NIEs with a small number of consumer representatives to make sure that it is workable." (The proposed questionnaire will be sent to each Working Group member prior to the meeting at which the initiation of the project is to be discussed, and each member will be asked for comments and ideas as to how the questionnaire should be improved. Under the proposal, the Working Group itself would do the testing.)

c. He felt that "at the beginning of this evaluation project we should assign a terminal date" and he suggested a 6 or 12 month period. (The attached proposal calls for a six month project.)

d. He considered that since there are a number of policy-level officials directly concerned with the subject matter of NIEs but not represented in the NSCIC mechanism, explicit provision should be made to allow for participation of consumers not represented on the NSCIC. (The proposed project makes no such provision, instead links the evaluation specifically to the NSCIC Working Group -- but puts no limitation on whom they can contact in obtaining evaluations.)

6. The proposed memorandum to the NSCIC Working Group members is in draft format pending your approval.

signed

Chief, PRG/IC

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Attachments:
As stated

____ 18 Dec 72

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